



Initiative to Promote Afghan Civil Society (I-PACS)

Sector:	Democracy and Governance
SO3	Rehabilitate Afghanistan as a Nation State
Program Name:	I-PACS
Implementer:	Counterpart International
Duration:	Jan. 2005 – Dec. 2007

I-PACS is an initiative by USAID/Afghanistan to promote the development of a politically active civil society with an emphasis on women-focused organizations. It also is responsive to a congressional earmark.

The objective of this activity is to assist in the expansion of a vibrant Afghan civil society through capacity building and technical assistance, implementation of an enabling NGO law, and the award and administration of small grants to civil society organizations. There will be a particular emphasis on supporting women-focused civil society organizations.

There are four program components for this activity:

1. Assessment of the status of civil society in post-Taliban Afghanistan
2. Ensure effective implementation of the NGO bill once it is passed into law
3. Implementation of capacity building training to a core number of CSOs
4. Disbursement of grants to partner CSOs,

Which will achieve the following results:

- Increase in the number of organizationally active civil society organizations.
- Increase in the number of registered civil society organizations under the new law.
- Improved advocacy and service delivery through training and the disbursement of small grants.

The small sub-grant component amount is not less than \$6.5 million. USAID and Counterpart will work with the Government of Afghanistan to develop grant application guidelines and selection criteria. USAID will sit on the selection panel which will meet monthly. A main goal of the sub-grant component is to provide qualified organizations with funds to initiate activities aimed at supporting their organizational objectives. Additionally the grants provide the opportunity for organizations to develop a track record of managing funds in accordance with USG regulations, thus adding to their credibility and capacity.

USAID/Afghanistan/Democracy and Governance